

# Summary of 2001/2002 PDC Law and Rule Changes

**Electronic Filing.** All candidates and political committees, including ballot measure committees, who expended \$25,000 or more last year, or expect to spend \$25,000 or more during this year, are required to submit campaign finance reports electronically. In 2004 the expenditure threshold drops to \$10,000. RCW 42.17.3691.

The Commission may make exceptions, on a case-by-case basis only for **CANDIDATES** whose authorized committees lack the technological ability to file reports using the electronic alternative provided by the Commission.

Candidates and committees that file electronically with the PDC do not need to file copies with their county auditor.

**Occupation and Employer.** The dollar threshold at which campaigns report an individual's occupation and employer name and address has been changed from \$100 or more to a new threshold of more than \$100. WAC 390-16-034.

**Weekly C-3 Reports.** Beginning the fourth month before a special or general election, treasurers are to report each bank deposit made during the previous seven days on Monday. This change (from C-3 reports due each Friday as of July 1<sup>st</sup> to C-3 reports due each Monday) was part of House Bill 2320 which passed the State Legislature and was signed by the Governor in 2002. RCW 42.17.080(3).

**Last minute Contributions.** The threshold for special reporting of last minute contributions has changed from over \$500 to \$1,000 or more. During the seven days before the primary and the 21 days before the general election, candidates must file special reports of contributions they receive during that 7 or 21-day period from one source that total \$1,000 or more in the aggregate. RCW 42.17.105.

**Contribution Limits.** The Commission made inflationary adjustments for 2002 contribution limits. Current limits are as follows:

Source of Contribution	To State Executive Candidates	To Legislative Candidates
Individual	\$1,250 per election	\$625 per election
Union or Business	1,250 per election	625 per election
Political Action Committee	1,250 per election	625 per election
State Party Central Committee	.64/voter	.64/voter
County Party Central Committee	.32/voter	.32/voter
Legislative District Committee	.32/voter	.32/voter
Minor Party Committee	.64/voter	.64/voter
Caucus Political Committee	.64/voter	.64/voter

**Contributions after the Primary.** Contributions to a statewide executive or legislative Primary Election candidate or candidate's authorized committee may be made with respect to a primary until thirty days after the primary, subject to the following limitations: (a) The candidate lost the primary; (b) the candidate's authorized committee has insufficient funds to pay debts outstanding as of the date of the primary; and (c) the contributions may only be raised and spent to satisfy the outstanding debt. RCW 42.17.640.

**Independent Expenditures.** Sponsors of independent expenditure political ads supporting or opposing candidates or ballot measures that a) are valued at \$1,000 or more, and b) are published, mailed or otherwise presented to the public within twenty-one days of a primary, general or special election, must file a C-6 report with the Commission within 24 hours of first publishing, mailing or otherwise publicly presenting the ad. RCW 42.17.103.

Independent expenditure ads supporting or opposing candidates for state or local office valued at \$625 (or a series of ads with a cumulative value of \$625) are subject to the "Notice to Voters" and "Top Five Contributors" requirement of RCW 42.17.510(2). See new WAC 390-18-025 for more information on "Top Five Contributors."

**Political Contribution Withholding Authorizations.** The annual reauthorization requirement to withhold a portion of an employee's wages or salaries for contributions to political committees or for use as political contributions has been repealed. An initial written authorization is still required, but the employee can revoke the withholding request at any time and must be notified annually of revocation rights. RCW 42.17.680.